



**GREATER DANDENONG YOUTH NETWORK – MEETING NOTES**  
**Supporting LGBTIQ+ Young People**

Wednesday 30 November 2022, 9:30am – 11:15am


9:30am – 11:00 am

**ONLINE MEETING**

| <b>ITEMS</b>  | <b>MEETING NOTES</b>  |
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| <b>WELCOME</b>  | All attendees welcomed<br>Traditional Owners acknowledged   |
| <p><b><u>KEY PRESENTATIONS</u></b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker</b><br/>Jeremy Oliver, Senior Constable, LGBTIQ+ Liaison Officer -Southern</p> | <p>Jeremy provided a comprehensive overview of the work of Victoria Police’s liaison officers (LLOs), who serve as a pivotal contact point for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer community. LLOs work to create mutual trust between police and the LGBTIQ+ community, ensuring they maintain a fair and equal policing service.</p> <p>LLOs provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· discrete, non-judgemental expert advice and help when reporting a crime, as well as information about support services</li> <li>· recommendations to Vic Pol on the policing needs of LGBTIQ+ people.</li> </ul> <p>LLO’s are committed to building relationships and supporting the LGBTIQ+ community including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· regular training and communication about current and emerging issues</li> <li>· considering LGBTIQ+ community perspectives in the review and development of Victoria Police policies, processes, and initiatives</li> <li>· improving how Victoria Police respond to incidents such as prejudice motivated crimes</li> <li>· present a regular LLO podcast on JOY 94.9 radio station, showcasing first-hand organisational experiences of LGBTIQ+ police officers</li> <li>· presentations to social and support groups on the role of LLOs, and how police and the LGBTIQ+ community can work together</li> </ul> <p>LLO’s support many LGBTIQ+ young people, their families, peers, schools, resi-care units, child protection, mental health clinicians, and other support organisations.</p> <p>*See accompanying presentation slides.</p> |

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| <p><b>Guest Speakers</b><br/>Catherine Maine, Youth Development/Community Engagement Officer + Jess McKenna, Youth Development Officer – Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services</p> | <p><b>#Proud 2 Be Me   Social Media Campaign</b></p> <p>Catherine and Jess presented on the LGBT inclusive social media campaign, led by this year’s council’s Young Leaders.</p> <p>Their presentation included a brief overview of Greater Dandenong Council Young Leaders program. Facilitated annually, the program is open to young people aged 16-25 years who live, work or study in CGD. Over 10 weeks, training is provided to build young people’s leadership and advocacy skills. Followed by the young leaders developing and implementing community projects which look to address identified youth priorities. This year the group executed two projects, one of which focused on LGBTIQ+ inclusion. The Young Leaders chose to focus on this topic after researching the immense impacts of harassment and discrimination on LGBTIQ+ young people’s health and wellbeing. Recognising that there was a lack of culturally appropriate, positive messaging for young people, the Young Leaders designed this campaign to celebrate LGBTIQ+ community members of all backgrounds and identities.</p> <p>The resulting campaign was <b>#Proud 2 Be Me</b>.<br/>The aim of <b>#Proud 2 Be Me</b> was to build understanding and inclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Educating community members about differences in sexuality and gender</li> <li>· Reducing stigma and normalising conversations about LGBT topics</li> <li>· Shining a light on the many strengths and similarities that we share</li> </ul> <p>A series of capacity building sessions were provided at the start of the program, topics explored included empathy and deep canvassing, which influenced the group’s decision to use a strengths-based approach for this project.</p> <p>Proud 2 Be Me platforms the many strengths and unique qualities of LGBTIQ+ people – educating viewers about diverse sexual and gender identities, while shining a light on the many similarities that we share. The Young Leaders hope to spread the message that there is so much more to a person than their sexuality and gender identity – these characteristics do not define you. Being part of the LGBTIQ+ community is something that should be respected and celebrated.</p> <p>The campaign was promoted over 4 weeks, across Youth and Family Services Facebook and Instagram accounts, and Council’s platforms. At the time of this presentation, the campaign had engaged six thousand + community members.</p> <p>The Young Leaders also developed a social media toolkit to assist individuals and community organisations to help spread their message, by sharing campaign materials. They encourage users to share the included resources, to help promote LGBTIQ+ inclusion. See weblink to access the campaign and social media toolkit.<br/><a href="https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/projects/proud-2-be-me">https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/projects/proud-2-be-me</a></p> |
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|   | <p><b>INFORMATION SHARING</b></p> <p>The following attendees shared an update via the meeting 'chat' or verbal.</p>  |
| <p><b>Chisholm Foundation College</b><br/><b>Chisholm General Education Offerings</b></p> | <p><b>Chisholm Institute</b><br/>Chisholm offers General Education to school students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caters to school students who, for one reason or another, are not coping with their schooling in a traditional setting. They offer Certificates I, II &amp; III in literacy and numeracy including Foundation VCAL for early school leavers (16 years onwards) and adults.</li> <li>• Their courses can be self-paced, individualised certificate learning programs that range from an alternative to Year 9 through to preparation for Year 11 and 12. Classes are flexible, casual, and supportive with teachers giving individualised support to students.</li> <li>• Students can then pathway from completing certificates to apprenticeships, further certificates within Chisholm or employment options.</li> </ul> <p>See accompanying pdf flyer</p> <p>For enquiries or more information contact: 9238 8294 Silvia Koslow – Email: <a href="mailto:silvia.koslow@chisholm.edu.au">silvia.koslow@chisholm.edu.au</a></p> |
| <p><b>Chisholm Work Education Programs 2021</b></p>                                       | <p><b>Chisholm's work education</b><br/>Their Work Education programs introduce students with special learning needs to full time adult learning in a supported setting. Their courses aim to improve a students' personal development by enhancing their life and social skills and preparing them for further education or the workforce. Ongoing enrolments throughout the year – individual learning plans – one to one teaching in classroom, personal pathways, and wellbeing support. Spaces available.</p> <p>For enquiries and/or enrolments please contact – <a href="mailto:siobhan.paxton@chisholm.edu.au">siobhan.paxton@chisholm.edu.au</a> or <a href="mailto:silvia.koslow@chisholm.edu.au">silvia.koslow@chisholm.edu.au</a> or call Christel Felix on 9238 8577</p> <p>See accompanying pdf flyer.</p>   |
| <p><b>Rainbow Group Young Carers   online to commence</b></p>                             | <p><b>Alfred Health Carer Services</b><br/>Rainbow Young Carers provides a safe space for all Young Carers (aged from 12 to 25) who identify as LGBTIQ+ to: Meet and socialise with other Young Carers in the rainbow community.<br/>Make new friends to talk, laugh and share your experiences with.<br/>Take a break from your caring role; and join in and participate in fun events and activities.</p> <p>For more information contact the Alfred Health Carer Services Events Team telephone: 9076 6644</p> <p>See accompanying pdf flyer</p>  |
| <p><b>Homework Support in Noble Park – young people 12-20 years</b></p>                   | <p><b>CGD Youth and Family Services   South East Community Links   Students Connect FREE homework and tutoring support</b><br/>Free tutoring and study support, recreational activities, and employment guidance. Every Tuesday @ Noble Park Community Centre 3:30pm - 6pm</p> <p>Contact Junior Melo, SECL, mobile   0435 916 339</p>   |

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| <p>Summer <b>Holiday Activities</b> program – Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services</p>   | <p><b>Summer Escapes School Holiday Activities during the January 2023 holidays</b></p> <p>When: 10 - 27 January 2023<br/>Venue: Various locations</p> <p>There are 15 activities on offer for young people connected to Greater Dandenong, aged 12-25 years. Including options that are both free, and low cost. Refer Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services webpage for full details.<br/><b>Registrations are essential. For enquires contact the YFS team on telephone 9793 2155</b></p> <p><a href="https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities">https://youth.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/programs/holiday-activities</a></p>  |
| <p><b>Youth Housing</b></p>   | <p><b>WAYSS THM/Case Management programs</b><br/><b>Youth Case Management</b></p> <p>The team works with young people aged between 16-25 years experiencing housing instability or at risk of homelessness in the Casey, Dandenong, and Cardinia areas.</p> <p>The Case management team can support young people to work towards their identified housing goals and link to broader housing options as well as exploring and supporting them with their broader goals and linking to relevant services. Contact <b>Andrew R, Case Worker, Services for Young People, telephone 8797 1880</b></p> <p><i>See accompanying information and forms.</i></p>   |
| <p><b>POSITIVE YOUTH PATHWAYS<br/>WEBSITE</b></p>  <p><b>Youth Positive<br/>PATHWAYS</b><br/>GREATER DANDENONG • CASEY • CARDINIA</p> | <p><b>Greater Dandenong–Casey–Cardinia Online Youth Services Directory</b></p> <p>There are many services for young people and families within the City of Greater Dandenong, the City of Casey, and Cardinia Shire. This directory brings local service information together in the one place. It aims to assist young people, families, schools, and agencies by improving awareness of and accessibility to services available to young people and their families across the City of Greater Dandenong, the City of Casey, and Cardinia Shire.</p> <p>Please <b>routinely check</b> your service and program information on the website to maintain its accuracy and currency. Also, if your service is not yet listed, we encourage you to please visit the website, and log your service information.<br/><a href="https://www.youthpositivepathways.com.au/about">https://www.youthpositivepathways.com.au/about</a></p> |
| <p><b>GDYN E-NEWS</b></p>   | <p>Reminder to network members: for promotion of programs/services in the monthly GDYN eNewsletter<br/>November edition: submissions due Friday 28 October COB, please send a short blurb to <a href="mailto:aishling.fagan@cgd.vic.gov.au">aishling.fagan@cgd.vic.gov.au</a></p>  |
| <p><b>NEXT MEETING</b><br/><b>Wednesday 22 February 2023</b></p>  | <p>For further information, please contact Aishling Fagan, or Catherine Maine at Greater Dandenong Youth and Family Services on telephone 9793 2155 or email <a href="mailto:aishling.fagan@cgd.vic.gov.au">aishling.fagan@cgd.vic.gov.au</a>   <a href="mailto:catherine.maine@cgd.vic.gov.au">catherine.maine@cgd.vic.gov.au</a></p>   |